

July 18, 1930.

My dear Mr. Standley:

With regard to the Peruvian orchids. I am planning to push through the determinations at the end of the summer vacation. I don't imagine that this will be a very difficult job and once it is begun the chief difficulty will be to prepare the manuscript. I would work on the collection this summer, but I have just begun to have a little pleasure working for myself and I have my nose deep in my enumeration of the Honduran orchids that you and I have collected. I want to make this a creditable bit of work and I have in mind to publish it as vol. 8 of ORCHIDACEAE. I am hoping to include the colored field drawings that Mrs. Ames made when she was in Honduras with me in 1923. This ought to be a very well worth while contribution and I think it might be a courteous thing to do to dedicate the volume to Cutter. Have you any Honduran specimens of *Stenorrhynchus* in your herbarium; or any other Honduran things. And do you happen to know anything about the collectors who have done work in Honduras within recent times? I would be glad to pay for the time of someone who could run through your collections at the Field Museum and pull out all Honduran labels.

One thing I realize very keenly: I am giving too much time to administrative work with the result that my research among the orchids is falling behind. It seems to me that as useless as this orchid work may seem to be, at least it is the best thing I can do and about the only thing I like to do as a steady diet.

With regard to the Berlin botanists and my friend Mansfeld who is trying to take over the orchids: It seems to me that we must do our own work and do this at any cost. Of course, one man cannot handle all the material that is coming in, but I believe it can be supervised and carried to the point of critical determination by assistants. As much as I liked Schlechter as a man, it is a relief to have have an end of the sort of thing he was doing just before his death. Rather than have the Germans take the field again, I think we should go to extremes in taking measures to assemble and identify the plants of the Americas.

I have just sent to press the accumulations of new species from Central America. This will constitute the tenth number of *Schedulae Orchidianae*. It will, unfortunately be a fat number. I have also just completed in cooperation with Eduardo Quisumbing a long paper on Philippine orchids for the Philippine Journal of Science. I may be able to finish my monograph of the Central American species of *Stelis* by the end of the autumn. Then there are several minor papers that must see the light soon, or die.

Any help you can give me regarding Honduras will be most welcome just now when the fever is running high and an enthusiasm that seemed to be dead is gaining in intensity day by day.

Faithfully yours.

O.S?

Robert C. Chas.



Ames, Oakes. 1930. "Ames, Oakes July 18, 1930 [to P.C. Standley]." *Oakes Ames Orchid Herbarium correspondence files*

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